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[www.howardcc.edu](http://www.howardcc.edu)

**Testimony from Mamie Perkins**

Chair, Howard Community College Board of Trustees

Howard County Council Budget Hearing

April 25, 2018

Good evening, Chair Sigaty and members of the Council. I am Mamie Perkins, a Marriottsville resident and chair of Howard Community College's board of trustees. I appreciate this opportunity to speak tonight on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of the college.

Serving 30,000 credit and noncredit students each year takes a toll on HCC's infrastructure, which is why the board asks for your support of the following capital budget recommendations made by the County Executive:

- **\$9.2 million to complete the renovation of the N and ST buildings.**

The academic programs previously housed in these buildings now reside in the new Science, Engineering, and Technology Building, which provided a unique opportunity to renovate these older facilities to serve current student needs. The renovation includes instructional

and support space for social sciences and teacher education, expanded teaching culinary and hospitality labs, and collaborative learning spaces.

- **\$2 million for much-needed systemic renovations** that will upgrade vital systems on campus, enhance facilities, and improve campus signage.

Investing in HCC's operations and facilities pays dividends for the county government, taxpayers, and most importantly, students.

- For every \$1 allocated to HCC, the county government will see a 4.6 percent return on investment.
- Students earning a degree at HCC will increase their annual earnings by more than \$425,000 over the course of their working life.

These significant increases lead to a vibrant workforce and a stronger Howard County economy.

Thank you for the support you have shown over the years, and I look forward to your continued support for fiscal year 2019. Together, we will ensure HCC remains the best and most affordable higher education option for Howard County residents and their families.



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**Testimony from Dr. Kathleen Hetherington**

President, Howard Community College  
Howard County Council Budget Hearing  
April 25, 2018

Good evening, Chair Sigaty and County Councilmembers, I am Dr. Kate Hetherington, president of Howard Community College, and a resident of Columbia.

I am pleased to speak to you this evening on behalf of the faculty, staff, and 30,000 students at Howard Community College. Before I begin, I ask those who have joined me to please stand to be recognized.

Thank you.

Earlier this spring, I sat here before County Executive Kittleman to request an 8.55 percent increase in the college's operating budget, which reflected the realities of what it takes to educate students and support the outstanding faculty and staff who are so critical to student success. Tonight, I have returned

to request your approval of what the County Executive has proposed - a three percent increase over last year.

To accommodate this change, the college had to make difficult decisions, resulting in reallocations and major reductions. The college worked hard to maintain its top priorities: supporting and retaining our employees, while continuing to provide the best possible education for students.

The college cannot slow its efforts to help students, whether it is the student who strives to pull his family out of poverty, the honors student who needs an affordable education, or the adult learner who wants to get ahead in his career. Howard Community College's mission of providing pathways to success is working. Last May, more than 1,300 students received an associate degree or certificate - our highest graduation number ever! And looking across a seven-year period, the college's graduation rate increased a record 92 percent - the highest percentage increase among all of Maryland's 16 community colleges.

Students achieve these record numbers because of the commitment of faculty and staff inside and outside the classroom. Over the past nine years, Howard Community College has won the Great College to Work For - the only community college in the state of Maryland to receive such recognition! It is essential

that the college retain budgeted employees through regular merit increases. For next fiscal year, the college is proposing a 2.5 percent merit increase for budgeted employees. HCC does not give step increases or cost of living adjustments.

HCC's budget also calls for an increase in pay of \$25 per credit hour for adjunct faculty. This would mark the sixth adjunct faculty salary increase in a row, raising the rate for a Level 1 instructor to \$795 per credit hour, still below the rate of Prince George's Community College.

Looking at salary increases across the past three years, HCC is falling behind its peers. As our result, salary increases remain below our partner community college at the Laurel College Center - Prince George's Community College.

To support high enrollment for in-demand programs, the college would hire one new faculty member. Adding full-time faculty helps the college maintain excellence in the classroom, plus improve the college's full-time/part-time faculty ratio, which remains below the state recommended ratio of 50/50.

The college's revised budget includes funding to hire two new staff mid-year to help with the anticipated influx of hundreds more high school students through JumpStart, a partnership between HCC and the public schools.

The college is always mindful of the cost of college for students, but must also consider the funding necessary to meet the instructional and service needs of students. HCC is proposing a tuition increase of \$2 per credit hour for in-county students.

On behalf of our students and all those in Howard County who depend on HCC to provide a quality education, please support the County Executive's budget recommendation for a 3 percent increase in operating funding. An investment in Howard Community College is an investment in the current and future workforce of Howard County.

Thank you for your time tonight and for your past support, and I look forward to continued support in fiscal year 2019.



**HOWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*You Can Get There From Here.*

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**Testimony from Anya Welsh**

Student, Howard Community College  
Howard County Council Budget Hearing  
April 25, 2018

My name is Anya Welsh, and I am a resident of Columbia and a student at Howard Community College.

Fourteen years ago, when I was 20 years old, I gave up my life in the Ukraine and left my job as a pharmacist to move to the United States.

Things became more complicated after I became a single mother and had to find multiple jobs just to make ends meet. Struggling day in and day out inspired me to start over and pursue an education at Howard Community College. I wanted to change my daughter's life and mine for the better.

From the beginning, HCC has fit my lifestyle. While taking classes in my third language has been challenging, HCC provided me with all of the necessary resources and support that I needed to succeed. I have met wonderful professors, tutors, and support staff who have helped every step along the way. HCC has helped me to discover my inner self: my leadership skills, my self-esteem, my confidence and even my independence.

I also received tremendous support through Career Links, a program that helps single parents and low-income families, just like mine. Now, I serve as a peer mentor in the program, which lets me give back to HCC.

After much hard work, I am proud to be completing my studies in diagnostic medical sonography, which is one of the college's competitive clinical allied health

programs. I have succeeded in becoming a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and I will graduate this May with my associate degree.

As I look ahead, I hope to one day return to HCC to share my skills and inspire students to dream.

Thank you all for your continuous support of HCC. Not only are you investing in the future of students like me, but you are also investing in the future of our children.

Thank you.